Appl. No. 10/808,792
Amdt. dated October 31, 2005
Preliminary Amendment

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (original) A method for operating a storage system configured to provide a Write Once and Read Many (WORM) function, the method comprising:

receiving a first command at a storage subsystem from a host; and

storing at least a portion of the first command on a WORM storage device coupled to the storage subsystem,

wherein the WORM storage device is used to verify the WORM function of the storage system.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second command at the storage subsystem;

examining the second command using a command filter, the filter being provided with a predetermined rule for filtering selected types of commands; and

storing at least a portion of the second command if the second command satisfies the predetermined rule.

3.   (canceled)

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim [[3]] 2, wherein the command filter is configured to filter at least commands relating to ERASE, FORMAT, and WRITE operations.

5.   (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the command is a Command Descriptor Block.

6.   (canceled)

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7.   (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the storage subsystem is a disk array unit having a storage area that is defined as a WORM storage area, wherein the subsystem configuration file is used to verify that data on a given storage device have not been changed or to identify a physical address of a logical volume during auditing.

8.   (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the command filter is configured to filter commands directed to a predetermined storage area in the storage subsystem, the predetermined storage area being defined as a WORM storage area.

9.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least portions of all commands are stored in the WORM device.

10.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
associating a serial number to the first command; and
storing the serial number in the WORM storage device.

11.   (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
associating a timestamp to the first command; and
storing the timestamp in the WORM storage device.

12.   (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the WORM storage device includes a plurality of records representing a plurality of commands received by the storage subsystem, each of the commands being associated with a serial number, the serial numbers being used to sort the commands according to a given order prior to performing an audit of the storage subsystem.

13.   (currently amended) A method for providing a data archival function, comprising:

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storing at least portions of commands directed to a storage subsystem in a Write Once and Read Many (WORM) storage device, the commands being of a type that affects a content of data stored in a storage area of the storage subsystem; and

associating a serial number to each of the commands, the serial number being useful for sorting the commands in a given order,

wherein the WORM storage device includes a plurality of command records, the command records including the at least portions of the commands and the serial numbers,

wherein the command records are useful for verifying whether or not a storage subsystem has [[maintain]] maintained a WORM integrity.

14.   (canceled)

15.   (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the commands directed to the storage subsystems are filtered according to a predetermined rule.

16.   (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the commands are filtered by examining operation codes associated with the commands or Logical Unit Numbers associated with the commands.

17.-31.   (canceled)

32.   (new) A storage system coupled to a host computer, the storage system comprising:

a storage controller that conducts an I/O operation from the host computer; and

a plurality of storage areas defined by at least one disk drive;

wherein the storage controller collects log information of the I/O operation for at least one of the plurality of storage areas when the at least one storage area is defined as a WORM area, and

wherein the log information of the I/O operation is stored into a WORM storage device located separately from the WORM area.

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33.   (new) The storage system according to claim 31, wherein the plurality of storage areas are a plurality of logical units.

34.   (new) The storage system according to claim 31, wherein the log information of the I/O operation includes at least a command relating to WRITE operation.